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A
SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE AND DEATH
OF
MRS. MARY SCOTT,
OF WINDSOR NOVA SCOTIA.

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OF THE M. E. CHURCH.

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THE
LIFE AND DEATH OF MRS. SCOTT.

IT is generally allowed, that few things have a greater influence in convincing those who know not God, of the excellency, beauty, and necessity of inward Religion ; or of exciting feeble believers to a more steady, active, and vigorous pursuit after holiness, than the beholding the sacred precepts of the Redeemer's Law, and the precious promises of his Gospel, drawn out in the lives and experience of the godly. Hence it is, that the examples of the righteous, in all ages, have been held forth for imitation, and, though dead, they yet speak in a powerful and instructive language. The memory of the just shall be blessed, while that of the wicked shall perish. Yea, the characters of the righteous will shine in the records of eternal fame, while the ungodly shall be branded with everlasting infamy. As God is not unfaithful to forget the work of faith, the patience of hope, and the labour of love, of his people, why should we ? What is the 11th chapter to the Hebrews, but an account of the faith, patience, suffering, and blessed end of those, who counted all things, but dross, for the excellency of the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus ? We have often found the lives of the holy men recorded in the Bible, as well as those of modern days, which by the gracious providence of God, have fallen into our hands, made useful to the strengthening of our faith, confirming our hope, and inflaming our souls with greater love to Jesus. The same I humbly hope, will be the effect of a serious perusal of the following short Narrative.

Mrs. MARY SCOTT, was born at Newtown, near Stockley in Yorkshire : Her maiden name was Bode-

rick. While she was very young, the Lord began graciously to work upon her tender mind. She had the happiness to be brought up in a place where the gospel was preached ; and some of her relations were remarkable for piety ; so that warnings and admonitions were not wanting, either from the ministers, or her private friends : nor were their pious labours altogether lost. She had frequent and powerful convictions, and fervent desires to obtain the pardon of sin ; sometimes great meltings of soul, under a sense of divine things ; and her mind was much affected with a view of her lost estate. But although her life was moral, yet her heart was not changed. The allurements of the world, and the temptations of the devil, again predominated in such a manner, as, nearly, to quench all the convictions of the holy Spirit.

After her marriage with Mr. Scott, and removal to Cumberland, in Nova Scotia, the cares of the world overwhelmed her mind, the thoughts of being in a strange land, in somewhat freightened circumstances, without friends, disappointed in their expectations, and, above all, the loss of a dear child, rendered their prospect in life, extremely gloomy ; which had such an effect upon her as almost broke her heart.

From Cumberland they removed to Windsor, took a farm, and experienced great reverse of circumstances: Almost every thing they did prospered, and riches flowed in upon them in abundance. But neither their preceding adversity, nor subsequent prosperity, could win her heart to God. Under the former, she sunk into fullen murmurings and bitter complaints ; under the latter, her mind was dilated with pride, and dissipated with carelessness.

In the year 1781, the Lord began again to work powerfully upon her soul. Mr. J. S. called upon her one day, with a proposal to establish meetings on the Sabbath, for prayer, and other religious exercises ; sometimes at one house, and some times at another ;

to which she consented. Presently after her former religious impressions revived, attended with remorse and self-condemnation. She saw, and felt herself a guilty criminal; the remembrance of her backslidings became intolerable; she loathed sin;—abhored herself on account of it;—and was conscious, that without the grace of Christ, she could do nothing pleasing to God. Shame covered her face; she confessed her vile ingratitude, and humbled herself under the mighty hand of God. Now her grand enquiry was, not, “What shall I eat? What shall I drink? or, wherewithall shall I be cloathed? But “What shall I do to be saved? How shall I escape the wrath to come?” Every thing else appeared vain, and empty. “How can I take comfort in any thing, said she, while my sins are unpardoned, and my soul at enmity with God! No: I will not! I cannot rest, until I find comfort through the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus!” Her distress increasing every day, convinced her more deeply of the opposition in her nature, to the Will and Law of God. She saw that her very prayers and duties had need of forgivness; and that there was no other Name given under heaven whereby she could be saved, but that of JESUS. being driven from every refuge, and ready to sink into despair, she threw herself into the arms of the Redeemer, with, “*If I perish, I perish!*” And was saved by Grace. The glorious light of heaven illuminated her mind,—guilty fears vanished away, and the kingdom of God took place in her heart. The distress she felt before deliverance, was so extreme, that, when the Lord was pleased to manifest his goodness, and reveal his Son to her, she was so overpowered with divine love, that, whether she was in the body, or out of the body, she could hardly tell. Indeed, the exceeding abundance of joy did not continue long, but however, it left a peaceful and holy serenity upon her spirit.

Being justified by faith, she had peace with God. The fetters of sin were broken, and she entered into the blessed liberty of the Gospel.

Her Faith was not a cold notion in the head, or a bare assent of the understanding to the truths of the Bible ; but a divine and living principle in the heart, wrought by the power of the Holy Spirit : It was the evidence of things not seen, and the substance of things hoped for : It penetrated heaven ; looked through the curtain of the skies ; and beheld him who is invisible, and the centre of all perfection and happiness ; even Jesus, God over all, blessed for ever. From him she derived constant supplies of wisdom and strength, peace and comfort.

Faith worketh by love ; This was eminently so in her : The love of God was shed abroad in her heart ; her desires were habitually turned towards him, as her only choice and portion. Many times did she cry out with the Psalmist, "Whom have I in Heaven, but thee ? And there is none in all the earth, that I desire beside thee !" Her soul delighted in the Lord, and rejoiced in the God of her salvation. She could not rest without a sense of his favour ! If he did but hide his face, she was troubled, and mourned and wept, until he smiled again. His Will was the rule of her life ; and the example of Jesus, the copy which she imitated. Her thirst for holiness was intense ; sometimes to that degree that it well nigh overpowered her body. She could not bear the thought, that any unholy temper, should remain in her soul. Perhaps few persons ever felt a greater abhorrence to sin : She was thoroughly convinced of its remains, and resolutely resolved to obtain through Christ, its utter destruction. From the Bible she learned, that there is no work, or device in the grave ; that death cannot destroy sin ; that the Blood and Spirit of Christ alone can root out the carnal mind : that God hath promised to sanctify his faithful people throughout, soul, bo-

dy, and spirit. All this she stedfastly believed, and importunately fought. The expectation of experiencing this blessing, animated her in the path of obedience, and drew forth her whole heart, in faith and love.

It was no uncommon thing to be on her knees wrestling with God in prayer, in behalf of herself, her friends, and the church of God, for two or three hours, after the family were lost in silent slumbers. Here it was, that her divine Master, in a particular manner manifested the secrets of his love, and poured out those uncommon consolations, with which she was so highly favoured. Frequently did her husband rise from his bed, after having slept some time, and listen to what passed between God and her, in the next room. Sometimes she was bathed in a flood of tears, wrestling in all the agony of prayer, until her strength was nearly exhausted : at other times she was lost in wonder, love, and praise, at the sight of the goodness of God.

As this was the manner in which she often spent great part of the night : we need not wonder, if we find her affections flowing after her beloved Lord, through the day. She wished to think, and speak of nothing, but what, some way or other, led to Jesus. "I want," said she, "I want whatever I do, whether I eat or drink, to do all to the glory of God." In order to this, she endeavoured to maintain a spirit of deep seriousness and reverence, in all places ; considering herself as in the presence of God, and accountable to him for every motion of her heart.* The ordinances of Christ were dear to her. In the ministry of his word and sacraments,—in searching the scriptures,—in meetings for prayer and exhortation,—religious conversation,—serious meditation ;—fasting or abstinence ;—and other duties of devotion, she took

* In all my acquaintance with her, for about nine years, I do not remember to have heard her jest, or to have seen her laugh ; yet a christian smile often sat on her countenance.

great delight. For the ministers of the Gospel she had an uncommon esteem ; her house was always open to receive them, and she felt a peculiar satisfaction in ministering to their comfort. She loved them for their Master's sake. Indeed her delight was in all the saints, whom she esteemed as the excellent ones of the earth.

She was steady in her attachment to the doctrines of the gospel, and sorely grieved when some persons, of whose piety she entertained favourable sentiments, encouraged the Antinomian delusion of the day : particularly that execrable opinion, "That the body may be defiled with adultery, or murder, and yet the soul not sin." A dangerously prevailing opinion in this province. These deluded professors forgot the Apostle's words ; "What ! know ye not that your bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost ? If any man desile the temple of God, him will God destroy ?" Her heart flamed with zeal for the Glory of her Redeemer, and the good of souls. She possessed a most intrepid courage ; and, rarely did any person, rich or poor, come into her house, whom she neglected to warn of the danger of living and dying in an unrenewed state ; and that in the most plain and convincing manner.

During the latter part of her life, she was many times visited with sickness, in which she manifested exemplary patience ; sweetly bearing all with a resignation and thankfulness, which nothing but the Spirit of the Redeemer could inspire. This was not only the case in the lingering illness which bereaved us of so kind and valuable a friend ; but also, in a dangerous travail which nearly deprived her of life, in 1783 : and likewise, in the alarming sickness, with which she was attacked, in 1784. These afflictions, even in the greatest extremity, she bore with holy triumph ; frequently exhorting all around her to "prepare to meet their God." To the Medical gentleman that attended her, she said ; "O Doctor, take

care of your soul ! seek the forgivness of your sins ! You must be converted !—Yea, and you must know it too !—I know my sins are forgiven.” “ You think so, madam,” replied the doctor. “ Nay, (said she) but I am sure of it !” Though it was judged extremely hurtful for her to speak much, yet she could not be prevailed on to be silent. Her heart was so full of love and divine consolation, that she could not refrain from praising the Lord, even when all who were present expected every moment to see her breathe her last.

Notwithstanding the abundaunce of consolations, with which our gracious Lord condescended to bleſſ her through her pilgrimage :—Yet, ſhe was at intervals exercized with ſtrong and powerful temptations. Sometimes ſhe found it difficult to hold fast the beginning of her confidence. Though her heart utterly adhorred the thought, yet for near three weeks together ſhe has been opprefſed with temptations to ſuicide. The enemy threw many fiery darts at her righteous ſoul, and attempted by various devices, to rob her of her confidence, and turn her from the way of the holy croſſ ; but being divinely affiſted, ſhe overcame him through the blood of the Lamb. I doubt not, but the conflicts, which ſhe endured, though they were not joyous, but rather grievous, were over-ruled to the furtherance of her ſoul in holinesſ ; and made her ſkillful in administering comfort to others, who were tempted. Though ſhe durſt not deny what the Lord had done for her ſoul, yet ſhe was moſt deeply abafed under a view of her ſhort commings. So tender was her conſcience, and ſo lively a ſenſe ſhe had of the ſpirituality of the divine Law, and of the infinite purity of the Law-giver, as laid her whole ſoul prostrate before the Throne :

“She felt an Idle thought,
As actual wickedneſſ ;
And mourn'd for the minutest fault
In exquisite diſtreſſ.”

To sum up the character of Mrs. Scott in a few words, it is but doing justice to her memory to say, that as a wife, she was dutiful and industrious, prudent and loving ;—as a mother, she was careful, tender, and affectionate ;—as a neighbour,—kind, obliging, and ready to help the distressed ;—as a friend, —sincere, upright, and constant ;—and as a christian, humble, patient, serious, devout and happy. In the beginning of December last, she was in the most lively and happy frame of mind in which I had ever seen her. It was at this time she related to me her experience from its first commencement. I wish it were in my power to give a more particular narration of it here. It was truly an affecting sight ! to behold a feeble, dying woman, triumphantly meeting death, fearless of its terrors, and longing to launch out of time into a glorious eternity. The following lines were of singular comfort to her soul, and they likewise express her dying sentiments :

“Let all who for his coming wait,
“The Holy Ghost receive ;
“And rais’d to our unsinning state,
With God in Eden live :
“Live ! till the Lord in glory come,
“And wait his Heaven to share :
“He now is fitting up our home,
“Go on ! I’ll meet you there.”

On the 5th of February, she rejoiced greatly in the God of her Salvation, declaring to all her friends who were then present, the wonderful things which the Lord had done for her soul : particularly to Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. O’Brian she said, “I have experienced much of the goodness and loving kindness of the Lord in days past ; and was happy in knowing that my sins were forgiven, and in the enjoyment of a measure of the love of God, shed abroad in my heart ; yet I always found something wanting, until

a few months ago, when I was penetrated with a conviction of the necessity of entire purification : my whole soul thirsted after perfect purity, and I resolved never to rest without it ; being fully persuaded that this was the will of God, even my sanctification. I knew that the Lord could not be straitened for time or power. I went upon my knees, resolving never to give up the suit, until I found the blessing : I continued about three hours in prayer ; during which time I experienced unutterable things, and found Jesus to be unspeakably precious. In this frame I went to rest ! praising the Lord for his goodness. After dosing a little, I awoke ; afraid lest I had slept too long, and, by this means, lost time in sleep, which might have been spent in the more angelic work of praise. I had such an awful view of the Divine Majesty, and of the absolute necessity of Christ, as our Mediator, as I never beheld before : and through him, I knew my acceptance into the new covenant-state ; and all my soul was wonder love and praise."

—Here she broke out into holy rapture and joy, exhorting those around her to make sure of an interest in Christ,—and of his sanctifying grace, without which, she testified, they could not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

She desired her eldest daughter to fetch the linen, which she had laid aside for her funeral clothes, and shew them to Mrs. O'Brian, who was to lay her body out. Upon Mrs. O'Brian's manifesting some reluctance to see them ;—Mrs. Scott said to her, "What ! do you think I am afraid to die ? No ! No ! While you are handling *this dead body*, my soul will be in heaven with my precious Jesus ! I shall be praising God with the angels, and gloriously triumphing there !"

Sunday the 6th was to her a most glorious day. It seemed as if her soul was in heaven, and ravished with the unspeakable glories of God. In the after-

noon, for a short time, the weight of bodily affliction interrupted her joy, but not her confidence in God. During this interval, she said to Mrs. Hughes, "I have not the comfort I usually feel;—I am much weighed down with sleep;—I have not taken any thing to make me sleep; yet, I am so oppressed with it, that some times, I cannot so raise up my heart as to fix it upon God. Do you think there is any sin in this? I cannot rest without my Jesus. I know he has redeemed my soul, yet I cannot rest thus? Do you think the Lord will take me away, without manifesting his love again? Yet I cannot doubt:—I know that he is mine and I am his!"

Soon after, she said to Mrs. R——, "Do you think I shall die to night?" Mrs. R——, answered, "I hope not; but the doctor says you are extremely weak, and cannot continue long." Hearing these words, she was greatly revived, and cried aloud; O Lord, cut short thy work in righteousness, and take me to thyself!—I do not doubt thy love; I cannot; I will hang upon thee. But Lord, I want thy glorious presence. I cannot live without my precious Jesus!" Then, lifting up her hands, she said, "Begone, thou Tempter; I am Christ's;—and Christ is mine! I am his to all eternity!" This I believe was the last time that the enemy was permitted to buffet her; for addressing herself to God, she cried out, "O Lord, thou didst hide thyself for a moment; but now thou hast more than paid me for all! Oh, how I love thee! I long to be with thee! I will praise thee! Oh! praise him, all of you! There is a blessed reality in religion:—I know it! Jesus is altogether lovely; yea, he is the fairest of ten thousand. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. O distil more of thy grace into my heart: Let me be all like thee!—

The cough now interrupted her; but, in a short time, she resumed her heavenly employment of praise.

“What care I for this body ! I will praise thee ! All the powers of my soul shall praise thee !” Taking her husband by the hand, she said. O my dear, praise the Lord, for what he has done for my soul ! He is mine, and I am his ! He is the great Jehovah ! The mighty God ! He is God over all ! Lord of Glory ! I long to be with him !” She requested her daughter, who was coming to wet her lips, to forbear, saying, “I am not thirsty : I want to praise God ! O the goodness of God, that ever he should look upon such a wretch as I am, the vilest of the vile ! He has redeemed my soul. O seek and serve God. Give your hearts wholly to him. None need despair ; I was the vilest of all ;—yet I found mercy. O turn unto the Lord, turn unto him now.”

Looking around, and seeing all her friends weeping about the bed, she cried out, “O praise the Lord ! What ! will none of you praise the Lord ? I see the Angels praising God ! I long to be with them. I see the Angels and Jesus waiting to receive my soul ! I shall soon be there ! But, Lord, give me patience ! O the heaven of heavens ! What a glorious fight ! I long to be there !”

Two sisters now taking leave of her, she said to them, “I charge you to meet me there (meaning in heaven) to praise him. See that you live close to God. Give him your whole heart.—You must be sanctified. I find nothing else will do. It is attainable, I know it is ;—you must experience what I feel. Live near to God. It is only they that endure to the end, that can be saved.” Then she prayed that the Lord would keep them from the temptations and snares, with which they might be surrounded, and make them faithful until death, that they might receive the crown of life.

Seeing a young man at the opposite side of the room, she earnestly exhorted him, that if he had not now a

clear evidence of the love of God, he would never rest until he received it, and knew by happy experience the unspeakable preciousness of Jesus, and felt the power of renewing grace in his heart ; assuring him he never could be happy without it, on earth, nor in heaven.

Observing her husband standing by in tears, "Don't weep, said she, don't weep ; but help me to praise the Lord !" She then took a most tender and affectionate leave of her children, entreating that they would give up themselves entirely to the Lord. Particularly the eldest. "OKaty, said she, seek the Lord; see that you secure an interest in Christ. This I have often pressed upon your conscience before. Now, I charge you again, to seek an interest in Christ. Leave this vain, deceitful world, or you never can be happy! Your dying mother declares to you, that, unless you forsake all, and turn by faith to the Lord, you will be lost to all Eternity.—What ! will you go to hell ; and your mother be in heaven ? I intreat you now for the last time, to flee from the snares of Satan. Your poor mother has had many hard struggles ; but she has overcome ; and now charges you to meet her in heaven." After which she prayed, that the blessing of God might rest upon them all.

Having a great desire to see Mrs. Church of Windsor, she sent for her, and said, "Come, see a dying woman. I am a living, and dying witness of the reality, power, and sweetnes of religion ! Oh ! that all the world could hear me ! I am not ashamed to declare the preciousness of Jesus ; He is altogether lovely ; the chief among ten thousand." Thus she continued for near three hours, declaring the goodness of God, and exhorting every one to prepare for Eternity, by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, that they may be found in him without spot and blameless.

On Monday, to one who was sitting by and wiping the cold sweat from her face, she said, "Oh! what should I do if I had no Jesus to go to now?" She asked Mrs. Hall, a person for whom she had a great friendship, "Will you believe the words of a dying woman? Then, remember this: You must be born again, and created anew in Christ;—you must be holy;—yea, and you must know it too: Without holiness you cannot be saved."—To another friend she said, "I am very weak; but I want to tell you of the goodness of the Lord: He is now precious to me, and will be so to you, if you seek and follow him. He hath made my bed in my sickness. He is with me now; and I am with him."

Between three and four o'clock, she entreated her husband, who was weeping by the bed side, not to murmur at the dispensations of Providence; adding, "I shall shortly be in heaven. The Lord is with me now, and he will stand by you in all your trials."—About five o'clock, waking from a short sleep, she broke out in thankfulness and praise;—declaring that the abundance of consolation which she felt, was beyond the power of description: "It is impossible, said she, for words to express the joys I feel! I have had a blessed view of my home; and angels wait to guard me there." She then exhorted every one to seek the favour of God, through faith in Jesus Christ; testifying that he died for them, that they might reign with him.

In the morning she was speechless about five minutes; but recovering her voice, said, "I thought my Lord had called me;—"I thought I was just gone, but he hath spared me a little longer with you. His will be done."—She entreated her weeping friends not to repine nor murmur; adding, I am happy, and you may be so too, if you will but give up yourselves to the Lord." Mr. S. observed, "You are

more than conqueror." "Yea, she replied, more than victor ! more than victor ! let there be no complaining in our streets." These were her last words. About a quarter of an hour after, as she lay speechless, Mr. S. said to her, as your speech is gone, if the prospect of glory open sweetly before you, lift up your hand.—She instantly threw up both her hands, laid them clasped on her breast, and fell asleep in the Lord.

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